



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana

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IM Weekly Highlights



- IM staff met with the contractor for the VC Pass site to resolve tower foundation issues. The decision was made to totally replace the foundation and to have the site completed by mid July.
- Most of the sites in the southwest loop PSIC project are now accessible, and work will resume to complete infrastructure build out. Aviat Networks is in the process of shipping the microwave equipment so as to be ready to start installation at those sites as soon as infrastructure is completed.
- Upgrades to the shelters at the Lost Creek and XL Heights sites are well underway. Most of the work should be completed by the end of the month.

Montana Reaches 100% Enhanced 9-1-1

By Becky Berger bberger@mt.gov

Recently, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County deployed Enhanced 9-1-1 (E9-1-1), marking a major milestone for Montana. Now, 100% of the state's 9 1-1 centers are providing E9-1-1 service. With E9-1-1, local 9-1-1 centers have the equipment and database information that allows call-takers to view the caller's wire-line telephone number and address on a display. This functionality allows dispatchers to quickly dispatch emergency help, even if the caller is unable to communicate the nature of the emergency or his or her location.

Progress also is being made with the deployment of the Wireless E9-1-1 program. Currently, forty-one of fifty-three 9-1-1 Centers have the ability to receive critical location information on 9-1-1 calls made from wireless cell phones.



Don't forget to register for the free CASM training • Tues.-Thurs. June 22-24!

To register, send your name, e-mail, telephone number and location to Carrie Castle, ccastle@mt.gov.

For more information, visit: <http://pssb.mt.gov/casm.mcp>

Billings Radio Implementation Plan Presentation

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Lex Rutter, GeoComm, will be presenting the City of Billings Radio Implementation Plan to City Council members during a work session scheduled for Mon., June 21 at 5:30 pm. The session will take place at the City Hall Council Chambers (2nd floor Courtroom), 210 N 27th St.

All are welcome to attend. But, please be aware that the council will be handling other items of business at this meeting. However, the Radio Implementation Plan Presentation is near the top of the agenda.

IM Project Directors Approve Business Plan Components

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

At its Tues., June 8 meeting, the IM Project Directors (IMPD) approved several components of the IM Business Plan, including adopting the objective to build out 120 sites, with the intention of achieving the following statewide interoperability goals:

- 95% mobile coverage (40-watt) along all state highways and interstate highways
- 90% mobile data coverage (40-watt) along all state highways and interstate highways
- 100% on-street portable coverage in large population areas

Carl Hotvedt, Public Safety Services Bureau, provided some history from the Legislative Audit Division's January 2009 audit of the statewide radio communication interoperability project. One recommendation was to develop a formal business planning process including consideration of potential system users, annual operating costs and potential funding sources. The IM Business Plan is being developed in response to this recommendation as well as to use as a foundation to help the legislature understand the need and benefits of statewide interoperability. Legislative strategy also includes seeking the appointment of an Interim Study Committee to address long-term funding and build out of a statewide system.

A second Business Plan objective approved by the IMPD is to conduct formal coverage analyses and formalize an evaluation process to move "proposed" sites to the "approved" site list. Project Directors also agreed to prioritize the build-out right now to specific regions as follows: (1) Northern Tier, (2) Gallatin/Butte, (3) Central, (4) Eastern Loop, and

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(5) Southwest Loop. They recognized that priorities will need to continually be re-evaluated and updated.

The IM also will establish a formal process for evaluating non-microwave links between sites and will redirect federal funds from build out to operations and maintenance when formal modification requests are filed and approved by DHS. In addition, participants agreed to support reimbursing site owners for maintenance costs as funding becomes available.

Considerable discussion took place on a variety of different funding mechanisms, such as MACo-type membership fees based on county/tribal populations, subscriber unit user fees, or a model such as the one used by the 9-1-1 Program. Fee structure mechanics are complicated, and consensus was not reached. In general, local entities are willing to pay a percentage of total system costs, but since they are providing a service to the public, residents and visitors need to pay for a portion of that service.

In other action, the board approved a new contract with Ian Marquand, Outreach and Public Affairs Consultant. Ian reported on upcoming outreach events, including the Fire Alliance Conference in Butte the weekend of June 18. The IM is on Executive Board agendas at upcoming MT Association of Chiefs of Police, the MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, and the MT Police Protective Association executive meetings. Ian also plans to present a report to folks who participated in the IM Strategic Planning Session. In addition, the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee is meeting in Helena on July 28. Its members are interested in learning more about the IM Project.

Plans were made for a follow-up conference call at a time and date to be announced. The next face-to-face IMPD meeting is Tues., July 13.

New Computers Highlight MDT Agenda

By Scott Bradford sbradford@mt.gov

The Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium meeting held on Wed., June 16, in Helena was highlighted by the news that the Toughbook® mobile data computers obtained through the state's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant are being delivered to 29 law enforcement agencies across Montana. Final units are scheduled to be delivered next week. These computers are provided as part of the consortium's effort to augment mobile data access across the state.

The computers will provide enhanced policing capabilities, allowing officers in the field to access Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) records, photos and video, file reports and communicate in

ways never before possible. The consortium received requests from agencies for the units and determined where the units would be distributed. Local agencies receiving the computers paid half of the 25% cost match, with the remaining match covered by State of Montana funding.

In additional business, the consortium agreed to set an August deadline to determine the location of up to four mobile data servers to supplement law enforcement access to critical information. A technical committee will be looking at support requirements and recommend appropriate sites. The consortium also agreed to look for additional funding opportunities to continue distribution of computers.

The group set the next MDT consortium meeting for 10:00 am, Thurs., August 5, at the Gallatin County EOC, 219 E. Tamarack, in Bozeman.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Tues., June 22**
State Agency Radio Users Task Force Cancelled!
- **Wed., June 23**
Eastern Tier Consortium
Sidney • 9:00 – noon
Richland Co. Law & Justice Center, 300 12th Ave. N.W.
- **Tues.-Thurs. June 22-24** - Communication Asset Survey and Management (CASM) Training
Kalispell on Tues., June 22 • 8:00 am – noon
Red Lion Inn, 20 North Main
Helena on Wed., June 23 • 8:00 am – noon
ITSD Mitchell Building, 125 N. Roberts, Room 13
Billings on Thurs., June 24 • 8:00 am – noon
Best Western Kelly Inn, 4915 Southgate Drive
- **Tues.-Fri. June 22-25**
2010 Joint Law Enforcement Training & Convention
Helena • For more information and to register, visit:
<http://www.mspsa.org/convention2010.htm>
- **Mon., June 28**
IM Technical Committee (IMTC)
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Please Note New Location: State Capitol, Room 172
- **Thurs., July 8**
Northern Tier Consortium
Havre • 9:00 am – noon
Great Northern Inn, 1345 1st St.
- **Mon., July 12**
IM Finance Committee
Helena • 9:00 am - noon
Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.
- **Mon., July 12**
IM Governance Committee
Helena • 1:00 - 5:00 pm
Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.
- **Tues., July 13**
IM Project Directors Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
MACo Large Conf. Rm., Lower Level, 2715 Skyway Dr.